

Provincial Airport Infrastructure Investment Plan

Background

There are International Airports in communities across Canada as well as many smaller regional airports.

Naturally, airports are critical transportation links between our communities and are major economic drivers.

There is a large demand for infrastructure investment dollars for airports across the province and funding from municipal, provincial and federal sources.

Currently, there is no master plan either provincially or federally that outlines infrastructure priorities for the province's airports. Currently, spending decisions by governments on airport infrastructure is done on a local needs basis and guided by local lobbying efforts.

Further, there does not appear to be any guidelines or criteria for investment towards Airport projects by the Federal or Provincial Government. Most spending by Federal or Provincial Governments is made under the justification of "Infrastructure and Economic Development" spending.

Collectively, the Provincial and/or Federal Government should work together to develop a plan that will consult with businesses, residents, airport authorities and provide solid research from users from around the province and neighboring districts that will encourage the most effective use of tax payers dollars on airport improvements. Criteria should be established that differentiates between spending on critical basic vs. Nice to have improvements.

In the interest of realizing the greatest economic impact and responsibility for taxpayer's dollars in relation to airport infrastructure, future decisions should be made based on the areas of highest demand and economic impact to the entire province.

Recommendation

That the Federal Government work with the Provinces and Territories and airports across the country to develop a long term strategic plan to guide future investments in the countries airport infrastructure with guidelines and criteria established for spending on airport infrastructure.

Submitted by the Fort St. John & District Chamber of Commerce

The Transportation Committee does not support this resolution for the following reasons:

- **The Committee had requested that this resolution be combined with two other resolutions that address the same issue.**
- **The issues covered by this resolution are addressed in more detail by the "More Infrastructure Investment - Less Rent for Canadian Airports" resolution.**
- **As written the resolution applies more to the provincial and not national level.**